Ali Baba and the Four Year Grind

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Uncle Sam needs engineers. Each year a large freshman class enters Ohio State's Engineering College, but, much as we hate to say it, many of the freshmen soon find themselves sleeping through lectures in accounting and in economics classes. That's right; they've changed to Commerce.

Because of the pressing need for engineers, (see also opening sentence) it is vital that students stay in the Engineering College, not deserting the slipstick for the ledger. After conducting an extensive survey of the causes of mortality (dropping out of Engineering), **The Ohio State Engineer** is launching an effort to reduce mortality by removing its causes. For the benefit of the Gallup fans the data obtained from the survey are tabulated below:

Total mortality cases studied—2837.

Cause of Mortality	Number of Cases
Lack of interest	2
Lack of time	3
Lack of initiative	2
Lack of intelligence	29
Lack of money	845
Miscellaneous*	1956

*Includes difficulty in understanding material, classes come too early in morning, classes last too late in afternoon, professors talk too loudly, interfering with sleep, too much homework assigned, and afraid of trains anyhow.

Now, as any fool can plainly see (we **hope** you will understand) most of the cases fall into the miscellaneous classification; as a matter of fact some of the cases fell so hard that they are beyond redemption. With this definite information as a basis, the **Engineer** is prepared to cope with the situation, and as a matter of fact, does so (copes we mean).

As our data conclusively show, mortality would be decreased appreciably if more of the fellows had at least a vague idea of what some of their courses are all about. So—it will be well at this point to remark parenthetically that as yet we have not acquired the attitude of utter disdain for the rules of grammar which typifies the writings of many engineers, physicists, mathematicians, and chemists, and still cannot bring ourselves to write "so that" when we mean "so" or "therefore". As an amusing evening pastime we suggest a game in which the contestants search their textbooks for "so that" 's, read the surrounding sentences substituting "therefore that" in the appropriate places, and then try to decide upon the silliest sentence.—So we shall make the suffering lighter by discussing some sidelights on the engineering curricula.

French's Expositors

One of the first pitfalls of the freshman engineer is Engineering Drawing. In industry nearly all drawings conform to the principles of orthographic projection. Although the e.d. instructors do their darndest to explain orthographic projection some of the pencil-pushing freshmen don't quite get the idea. To really understand a thing one must know what its name means. Orthographic, adj., means pertaining to correct spelling; projection, n., means the act of blaming others for one's own faults or misfortunes. Combining the definitions it is readily seen that successful engineering drawing consists fundamentally of blaming other people for pertaining to correct spelling, and anyone who pertains to correct spelling should be roundly censured in our opinion so we're heartily in favor of the whole thing.

One of the first things a student should learn in e.d. is that an engineer never guesses; he estimates. We once estimated the position of a point on a descrip (e.d. 403) exam and got off with a grade of 98. Instructors in e.d. do not believe in giving orders, they merely make suggestions. Typical suggestions are "Where the heck did you get that crazy idea? Here's the way to do it, dimwit"; "Well, hurry up with that drawing, Mercury. We haven't got all day"; and "Any member of this department could turn out better drawings left handed than any of you can right handed".

Strange Smells

By all means attend the chemistry lectures; they are highly entertaining. The majority of the demonstration experiments fail to obtain the desired results as something invariably goes haywire. "Disconcerting, most disconcerting," is the lecturer's usual comment. It is almost impossible to maintain a decorous attitude while the erstwhile lecturer banties such terms as "berler scale", "soder rash", "alpher", "bater", "gammer", and "delter" about the room.

The assistants who instruct in chemistry are natural showmen. One has perfected a technique of writing

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equations with his left hand and simultaneously erasing the portion of the blackboard ahead with his right. Many interesting facts are disseminated in the chemistry "quiz sections", for example: There is no nitrogen in Ireland because it is not found in a free state. Inside a fire hydrant is H^2O, outside is K^9P. A liquid that will not freeze is hot water.

Mathematics for the 10^6

College algebra is high-school algebra taught in college. In college algebra we learn that when a coin is tossed into the air the chances are one out of two that it will come to rest heads up unless both sides are tails as is the case with some of our own special purpose currency. Typical of the problems baffling some of the students is this: A man travels x miles. He hitch-hikes a miles, rides b miles under a freight car, bounces in the back end of a police wagon for c miles and hoofs it the rest of the distance. For how many miles is the burden on his soles? Answer: d, e, f, g, h, i, j, k, l, m, n, o, p, q, r, s, t, u, v, w miles.

Much emphasis is placed upon Newton's method for tracking down the roots of an equation. Briefly his method consists of guessing numbers and trying them out to see if any of them work. We once used Newton's method on a tough calculus problem and hit the answer on the second shot. Why can't we be that good with our horse problems, doggone it?

Preview

Trigonometry, analyt, and the calculus will be treated in other articles. Be sure to be on hand when we stumble with Dumble through English. On tap for next month is folklore of the Mendenhall inmates. Look for the title, "Physics, relief for the:"